

July 1, 2024

# Faith Builder

Issue #18

A Faith Chapel Newsletter

*Faith Chapel*

*Mission - "Culture Like Christ" "Vision - Jesus."*

## Scripture of the Month

"My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:27

Father, as I talk with you, remind me to stop and simply listen.

I want to hear Your voice above all others, amen.

## This Month

July 7, 14, 21, 28 - Sunday Services

July 4 - Independence Day

July 7 & 21 - Meet the Need & Food  
Distribution

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Midweek Encounter

July 15 - Women's Ministry 6:00pm

July 16-19 Vacation Bible School

July 19 - Legacy Builders Potluck

July 22 - FC Youth Camp

July 26 - The Midnight Hour

June 26 - Men's Core Gathering 6:00pm

July 28 - Baptisms & Communion

June 1 - August 7 - Summer Camp

June 26 - Men's Core Gathering 6:00pm

## Pastor's Perspective

Every year towards the end of June my family travels to Texas to visit some other family who live there. My mother-in-law rents a lakehouse and we enjoy about a week of relaxation, swimming, games, food and making memories together. It's always a much needed and much enjoyed getaway year after year for me.

Something I complain about every time we go is the weather. Texas is hot. Like really hot! Like walking on the face of the sun - hot. Not to mention the humidity makes it all the worse. Since we're there the same time every year, it's always the same kind of weather. We stay in the AC until it's time to go to the water which we run to. Hop in the water, which is always nice and warm, then quickly back into the AC.

At the time of my writing this, it was late last night that I stepped out of the airport in San Diego with once again a fresh appreciation for the beautiful weather we all pay such a high price to enjoy. It was then it made me think about how my family who used to live in San Diego but now lives in Texas isn't really bothered by the climate anymore. They've acclimated. What once was shocking for them is now normal. Let's look at the word acclimated.

Acclimated - to adapt (someone) to a new temperature, altitude, climate, environment, or situation.

The only way to acclimate to a change is to be submerged in it. You can't dip your toe into it occasionally and expect to acclimate to that environment. Unfortunately, this is how many people see church and as a consequence - their relationship with God. People live their entire lives in a particular type of environment, then come to church on Sundays at 10:00am for a couple hours or visit their small group for a short time and wonder why their spirits are so shocked by the culture shift. They'll never truly acclimate to the Godly environment when it's only brushed up against on occasion.

I'd like to submit to you that there is only one way to live as a Christian. It's to follow the life of Christ, whom we're named after. To live so in Him and He is in us that it'd be safe to say we're "submerged" in His environment. He didn't acclimate to the culture; He established an entirely new Kingdom influence everywhere He went.

Everybody else had to acclimate to what He was creating. Those that did, changed the world! Those that didn't, fell by the wayside of yet another religious fad amounting to little or no fruit at all. This journey we're all on is designed to be lived out with 100% commitment. We're acclimating to a new culture. We're watching old things pass away and all things becoming new. We're changing, adapting, and transforming.

Luke.9:62 NLT But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

Don't "give it a shot", you'll be disappointed. Perhaps even shocked when you step outside and realize just how hot it is. Jesus didn't tell His disciples to "give it a shot". He called them to pick up their cross and follow Him. To leave it all behind and lay their lives down as He would show them how. If you'll allow yourself to acclimate to the culture being established here at Faith Chapel. Apply what you're learning and keep yourself submerged in this faith culture Monday-Sunday and I assure you, His Kingdom will be seen in your laid down life.

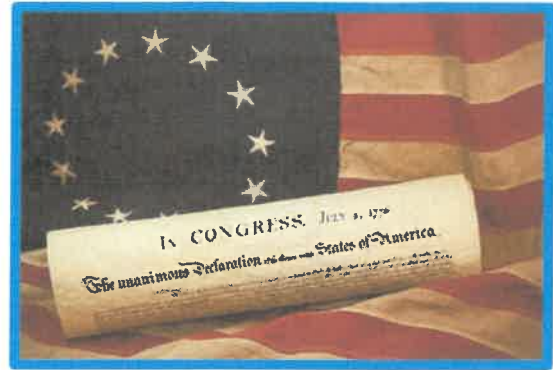
Pastor Josiah Elias



Independence Day, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America. The Founding Father delegates of the Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states.<sup>[1]</sup> The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2 and adopted

the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4.<sup>[1]</sup>

### The Declaration of Independence

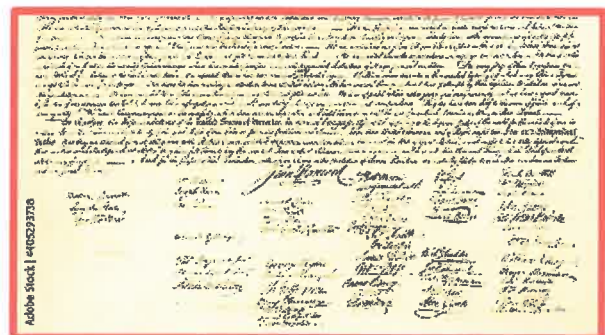


The first two paragraphs of the declaration are perhaps the most recognizable portion of the document. Most notable is the references to God and the Creator.

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's *God* entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their *Creator* with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

In the last paragraph of the document reference is made to "the Supreme Judge of the world", and "with a firm reliance on the protection of *divine* Providence."

### Who signed the Declaration of Independence and what happened to them?





## July 4, 1776



Fifty-six men from each of the original 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers and two were cousins. One was an orphan. The average age of a signer was 45. Eighteen of the signers were merchants or businessmen, 14 were farmers, and four were doctors. Twenty-two were lawyers — although William Hooper of North Carolina was "disbarred" when he spoke out against the king — and nine were judges. Stephen Hopkins had been governor of Rhode Island. Forty-two signers had served in their colonial legislatures. John Witherspoon of New Jersey was the only active clergyman to attend. Almost all were Protestants. Charles Carroll of Maryland was the lone Roman Catholic. Seventeen signers fought in the American Revolution. Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.



The founding fathers and the independence that was achieved by the Revolutionary War and the signing of the Declaration of Independence established the United States and provided freedom to its people.

But what about Christian freedom? What about the freedom we have in Jesus? The Bible states emphatically in [Galatians 5:1](#) that believers are free in Christ: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free" Paul reminds the Galatian believers that "it is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Believers' sins are forgiven on the basis of Christ's perfect sacrifice. Now believers can live in freedom from the law, and they can live in freedom from the consequences and power of sin. The NLT says, "Christ has truly set us free"; believers are "truly free" to live for the things of God.

Before Christ's sacrifice, we lived under bondage to the law ([Galatians 4:3](#)). We were burdened by demands we could not keep ([Acts 15:10](#)). Christ's death and resurrection broke our bondage to the law. Jesus' perfect life and holy sacrifice on the cross was the complete fulfillment of the law, and anyone who trusts in Him for salvation is made right with God. Only Christians have true freedom from the law. [John 8:36](#) confirms, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and are characterized by a joyous freedom to follow Christ and God's design for life ([Galatians 2:20](#)). The Bible is clear that Christian freedom is not a license to sin. Instead, believers are free *not* to live for sin and are free to live holy lives in Christ. For *this* freedom Christ has set us free: to live in relationship to God and others the way He intended ([Galatians 5:13](#)). Believers are free to live an abundant life ([John 10:10](#)), and we have been given everything we need for life and godliness ([2 Peter 1:3](#))

And what of the independence God has given his people? The question of why God gave humans a free will often come up in a discussion about the problem of evil. Someone will ask why there is so

much evil in the world, and the answer is that human beings have chosen to do evil things. God is not to blame. The follow-up question is, if God knew all the evil things that people would choose to do, why would He give us free will?

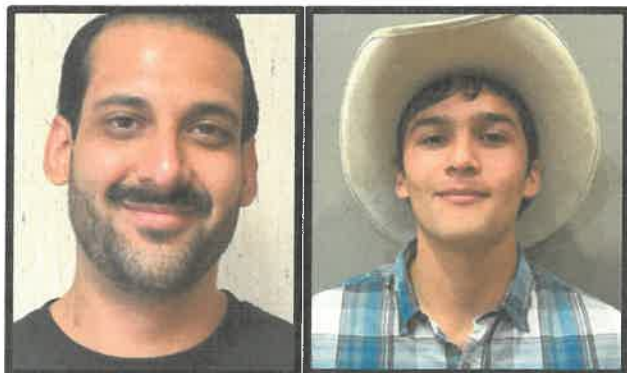
The “standard” answer seems to be that, for love to be real, it must not be coerced. If we did not have the ability to reject God, then neither would we have the ability to truly love Him. Some theologians even go so far as to say that human freedom is the highest good and that even God will not violate it. Genuine love and genuine good can only exist in a world where there are an opportunity for genuine rejection and genuine evil. Some add that, since God knows all possibilities past, present, and future (foreknowledge), the world He created must be the one where the greatest amount of good would result. God created the world as He did and gave humans the freedoms, they have in order to bring glory to Himself. The glorification of God is the greatest possible good.

### 1 Peter 2:16

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

## New Employees

Meet our two newest employees joining the facility staff as custodians.



Alan Rivera

Justin "Turtle" Lacuesta

## Church Membership

Membership in the church is a very important part of belonging to Faith Chapel. Church membership is a way of identifying oneself with a local body of believers and of making oneself

accountable to proper spiritual leadership. It is simply a way of saying, "I am a Christian, and I believe this church is a good church." If you would like to become a member, please fill out the membership request form on the FC AP or contact one of the church elders or inquire at the church administrative office.

### Our New Church Member

Louis McLaurin

## Connect Classes

Classes begin each Sunday at 8:30am and end at 9:30am.

- Foundations - Establishing New Believers. Presented by Joel Munoz in room C-214.
- The Parables of Christ Presented by Rose Necochea in the Hospitality Suite.
- "The Gospel of John" - Growing and maturing in Christ as a community of believers. Presented by Eric Madril in LLA.
- "Connect to Worship" - This is a time for everyone who loves worship to get together and grow in the gifts given to our church. Presented by LaMar and Yvette Key in the choir room.
- "The Book of Matthew" presented by Marsha Streiker - Sunday's from 12:00pm to 1:30pm in room C214.



## Vacation Bible School

The 2024 VBS will be held July 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. We need people to help decorate, be group leaders, staff sign-up and registration booths, organize and deliver snacks, lead the physical activities and

more. So, please sign-up at the VBS display in the Sanctuary and make your place in this year's "SCUBA" Vacation Bible School.

## August Classic Car Show

August 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2 pm at Faith Chapel



## June Paramount Message Points

A reminder of the important takeaways from Pastor's messages.

June 2

- "He wants us blessed according to His metric of blessing, not ours."

June 9

- "My body and life are a testimony to His glory."

June 16

- Father's Day Panel

June 23

- "When God gives grace, we make room at the table."

June 30

- Not available at the time of printing. Please see in the August newsletter

## Flash Back

July 1978 Faith Builder

"We The People"

A love for our country and for our fellow man was the message of our patriotic musical presented, July 2, entitled "We The People." The hour-long

musical was directed by our new choir director, Ray Anthony. In a fitting salute to our country's independence, "We The People" introduced the church's newest musical group, Chapel Brass, comprised of trombones, clarinets, trumpet's, and other brass instruments. Also featured was the popular ensemble, "New Life", the children's choir and soloist Mary Trent. Narration was by Glen Aubrey. "This musical was a blend of favorite patriotic songs and spiritual ones." Said Ray Anthony, "as well as some real great July 4<sup>th</sup> music. We wanted to present in music our thanks to God for the many freedoms and blessings we have in America, freedoms that most countries do not have." "God Bless America", "America the Beautiful" and "Salute of Liberty" were only a few of the songs presented. Slides were also shown to remind us of our country's great heritage.

## God's Creations

New this month and continuing in the months to come, each newsletter will display the beauty of God's creations in different forms. Animals, flowers, birds, scenery and more will be highlighted in picture form. This month's creation:



## Fun and Trivia

Impress those history buffs by breaking out this 4th of July trivia at the Independence Day barbecue.

**Question:** Which city hosted the first official Independence Day celebration on July 4, 1777?

**Answer:** Philadelphia



**Question:** When was the first 4th of July celebration held at the White House?

**Answer:** July 4, 1801, when Thomas Jefferson was president.

**Question:** How many times does the Liberty Bell ring on each Independence Day?

**Answer:** 13 times

**Question:** What is the location of the nation's oldest 4th of July parade?

**Answer:** Bristol, Rhode Island

**Question:** What was the first state to declare the 4th of July a state holiday?

**Answer:** Massachusetts

**Question:** What year was the 4th of July declared a national holiday?

**Answer:** 1870

**Question:** Which three U.S. presidents died on the 4th of July?

**Answer:** John Adams (July 4, 1826), Thomas Jefferson (July 4, 1826) and James Monroe (July 4, 1831)

**Question:** On the flip side, which president was born on the 4th of July?

**Answer:** Calvin Coolidge (July 4, 1872)

**Question:** Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest has happened on each Independence Day since 1972. Where does the competition take place?

**Answer:** Coney Island, New York

**Question:** According to the National Hot Dog & Sausage Council, roughly how many hot dogs are eaten on the 4th of July?

**Answer:** 150 million

**Question:** According to the National Retail Federation, how much money are people expected to pay, on average, for the food for their 4th of July bash this year?

**Answer:** \$93.34

**Question:** What is the largest 4th of July fireworks display in the U.S.?

**Answer:** The Macy's 4th of July Fireworks celebration in New York City

**Question:** How much did Americans spend on fireworks in 2023?

**Answer:** \$2.3 billion

## Praise and Worship



Gus praising the lord while watching FC worship on live stream.

## Faith Chapel

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